

Message Text

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17

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 IO-14 OMB-01 AF-10 EB-11 FEA-02 SCI-06 COME-00

DRC-01 /143 W

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FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6479

INFO AMEMBASSY MANILA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, RP, SA

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT MARCOS' FAVORABLE IMPRESSION ON
SAUDI VISITORS

REF: (A) MANILA 3047; (B) JIDDA 1235

1. ON MARCH 21, AMBASSADOR HALID AL-NASSIR AL-TURKI, (SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OMAR SAQQAF) TOLD DCM THAT PRESIDENT MARCOS HAD MADE A GOOD PERSONAL IMPRESSION SAUDI TEAM AND THAT THEY BELIEVED HIM SINCERE IN SEEKING JUST SOLUTION TO THE MUSLIM INSURGENCY. AL-TURKI SAID THE PROBLEM OF PHILIPPINE MUSLIMS WAS COMPLEX AND HAD SOCIOLOGICAL, ECONOMIC AND LINGUISTIC BASES IN ADDITION TO SIMPLE FACT OF RELIGIOUS DISCRIMINATION. RELIGION HAS BECOME THE CUTTING EDGE OF THE MUSLIM CASE AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL, BUT IN PHILIPPINE CONTEXT RELATIONS BETWEEN COMMUNITIES AGGRAVATED BY THE DESIRE OF RICH DEVELOPERS AND BUSINESSMAN (MOSTLY CHRISTIANS) TO EXPLOIT THE RESOURCES OF MINDANAO AND POSSIBLE OFFSHORE OIL DEPOSITS.

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2. AL-TURKI COMMENTED PRESIDENT MARCOS HAD TO CONTEND

WITH EXTREMISTS ON BOTH SIDES. ON THE ONE HAND THERE WERE CERTAIN RIGHT-WING ARMY GENERALS WHO CLAIMED THEY COULD RESOLVE THE INSURGENCY BY FORCE. WITH A REMARK ABOUT US EXPERIENCE IN VIET NAM, TURKI COMMENTED HE BELIEVED THE GENERALS' JUDGMENT TOBE MISTAKEN. ON THE OTHER HAND, SITUATION WAS NOT HELPED BY MUSLIM LEADERS EITHER. AL-TURKI SAID SOME OF THESE HAD COME ON "A LITTLE TOO STRONGLY."

AKINS

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